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LAND STEALING IN NEW MEXICO.

Indianapolis Sentinel: In the July number of the North American Review an article appears from the pen of Hon. George W. Julian upon the subject of "Land Stealing in New Mexico." Mr. Julian, as our readers are aware, holds the responsible office of Surveyor-General of New Mexico, a position for which he is pre-eminently qualified in every respect, having as far back as the Thirty-first Congress delivered a speech "on the public lands, embodying the leading features of the policy on that subject, which has since received the indorsement of all parties."—We mention the fact to show that Mr. Julian has made the subject of public lands a special study, and that he was regarded in Congress so thoroughly equipped to champion the right in all matters pertaining to the public domain that in the Thirty-ninth Congress he was authorized by the Committee on Public Lands to introduce a bill which proposed to make the homestead law what it should have been from the beginning. It may be doubted if, in the entire country, a man better prepared to investigate "land stealing in New Mexico" could have been found. A lawyer, a statesman, and a student, a man of unswerving integrity, of earnest convictions and with courage equal to convictions, an implacable hater of thieves and rogues of all grades, it was generally understood that Mr. Julian would do his best to make land stealing odious and expose the rascals who were engaged in the business, and the article in the North American Review before us is conclusive that neither Mr. Cleveland nor the public had over-stimulated Mr. Julian's integrity, ability or fearlessness. Mr. Julian's exposure of "land stealing in New Mexico" is a series of revelations well calculated to startle the country. The land thieves have played their game with consummate adroitness. As an illustration of this, the land sharks from the first "sought the good will of the Surveyors-general, because they desired an opinion favorable to their titles. In furtherance of this flattering purpose, they took note of his small salary and his natural love of thrift, while carefully taking his measure with the view of enlisting him in their service by controlling motives."

Mr. Julian's paper relates to Spanish and Mexican land grants, and as he cites instances of the expansion of these grants, to satisfy the greed of claimants, astorishment increases until the mind becomes bewildered as it contemplates the stupendous scoundrelism that has been practiced in New Mexico. Numerous instances are cited as illustrations. The Peralta grant was for a narrow strip of land about a mile in length—this expanded to twenty miles square, or 400 square miles, containing 256,000 acres.

The Canada Ancha tract was originally for "a spot of land on which to plant a corn field"—this expanded to 375 square miles, or 240,000 acres.

The grant known as the anon de Chama tract was for 184,000

acres, and this expanded to 472,000 acres.

A grant to Antonio Sandoval is said to be purely fictitious, but was approved for 648 square miles, or 416,036 acres.

The Socorro grant is specially referred to as a stupendous fraud. A small tract of land may be claimed with some plausibility, but the claim as made covers 1,612,000 acres, and as surveyed contains 843,259 acres.

The grant to Bernardo Miera Y Pacheco and Pedro Padilla was one league of land, 4,438 acres.—This has expanded to 148,862 acres.

The Canada Cochiti grant was for about thirty-two acres. This has swelled to 163 square miles, or 104,544 acres.

There is much more of this sort of land stealing in New Mexico, as shown by Mr. Julian, who says "these illustrations of legalized spoliation and robbery could be multiplied." It seems impossible that such stupendous robberies could be practiced, but the record as given by Mr. Julian places the facts beyond controversy. But when Mr. Julian passes to the consideration of cases in which Congress has taken action, and which are still pending, an amount of villainy appears in which nothing but recorded figures could force credence. One grant is referred to which could not have been for more than 48,000 acres, and yet it was swelled to 93 square miles, or 596,515 acres; and another grant is referred to for 827,621 acres, without any conclusive proofs of right to the land.

Mr. Julian states that under the administrations of Grant and Hayes not less than 5,000,000 acres were criminally surrendered to monopolists which should have been reserved for the landless poor.

Mr. Julian refers to the vast estate claimed by S. W. Dorsey, the Republican star route thief, and conspicuous land thief, and refers to the schemes resorted to obtain land by processes which should send him and his confederates to the penitentiary.

Mr. Julian in closing his paper says "distinguished Senators and Representatives from some of the great land States of the West are well understood to be in sympathy with S. W. Dorsey, S. B. Elkins and their confederates, and nothing but the dread of antagonizing the President for his fight against land thieves restrains them in acting openly." But we are inclined to the opinion that when Mr. Julian's statements are read and discussed, as they will be, "distinguished Senators and Representatives" will be a little careful in making themselves conspicuous as defenders of land stealing in New Mexico or elsewhere.

Railway Indemnity Lands.

WASHINGTON, July 5.—Within a few days the local attorney of the Northern Pacific railroad procured from the general land office a certified copy of a letter dated Feb. 25, 1885, and written by the then acting commissioner, Harrison, instructing the land officers at Bozeman, Montana, that on the 27th of May, 1883, Secretary Teller decided that the Northern Pacific road was not compelled, in filing selections of indemnity lands, to show what lands were lost in place. This curious decision opened the door wide for the railroad company to select all the desirable land there was within the indemnity limits, whether there was in place to be made good or not, and after the adjustment of the granted lands the railroad company would have pretty much the whole tract of the indemnity lands, which in the meanwhile had been closed to settlement, from which to select the amount of land, if any, that losses in place might entitle the company to. It was under such a construction of the law that the company was able to select in Dakota five times as much indemnity lands as the company lost within the granted limits. The purpose of getting the certified copy of the Harrison letter was doubtless to use it as evidence in litigation with some settler. It is worth while, therefore, for all settlers and a good many other people to know that on Aug. 4, 1885, Commissioner Sparks under the authority of Secretary Lamar,

ISSUED A CIRCULAR to all land officers as follows:

Before admitting railroad indemnity selections in any case you will require preliminary lists to be filed specifying the particular

deficiencies for which indemnity is claimed. You will then carefully examine your records, tract by tract, to ascertain whether the loss to the grant actually exists as alleged. You will admit no indemnity selection without a proper basis therefor. If you are in doubt whether the company is entitled to indemnity for losses claimed, you will transmit the preliminary lists to this office for instructions, and will not place the selections upon record until directed so to do.—Where indemnity selections have heretofore been made without specification of losses you will require the companies to designate the deficiencies for which such indemnity is to be applied before further selections are allowed. The selecting agent applying to make indemnity selections must state in his affidavit attached to the list presented that the specific losses for which indemnity is claimed are truly set forth and described in said list, and that said losses have not heretofore been indemnified in any manner. Where deficiencies exist for which indemnity is allowed by law, the lieu selections must be made from vacant unappropriated land within proper sections and limits nearest the granted sections in which the losses occurred. You will be careful to see that this rule is strictly complied with, and will reject all selections not made in conformity thereto.

WILLIAM WALKER,
Acting Commissioner.
Approved. L. Q. C. LAMAR,
Secretary.

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The closing "short talk," at the Tammany celebration, in New York, on the 4th, was by Congressman S. S. Cox, who said:

What is the shibboleth of the Republican party? Why, there was a little incident concerning the battle flags the other day. These flags were mouldering in the attic of the War Department at Washington. It was proposed to continue this era of good feeling between North and South, but the President found that it was unlawful, and the order was countermanded. There never was such a noise raised before as our Republican friends raised over this matter. Governor Foraker, of Ohio, sent on to Washington to have the Government enjoined from performing this act of good fellowship. Had he lived in the days when a babe was born in Bethlehem he would have sent on to Jerusalem for an order enjoining the heavenly host from singing, 'Peace on earth; good will to men,' and a mandamus compelling them to sing the opposite, 'Hate on earth; ill will to men.'

NOTICE.—All members of the S. of V. Lodge are requested to be present at the regular meeting next Saturday night. Important business.

Ex-Senator Mahone will never talk about the war of the rebellion if he can help it. He's a "repentant rebel!"

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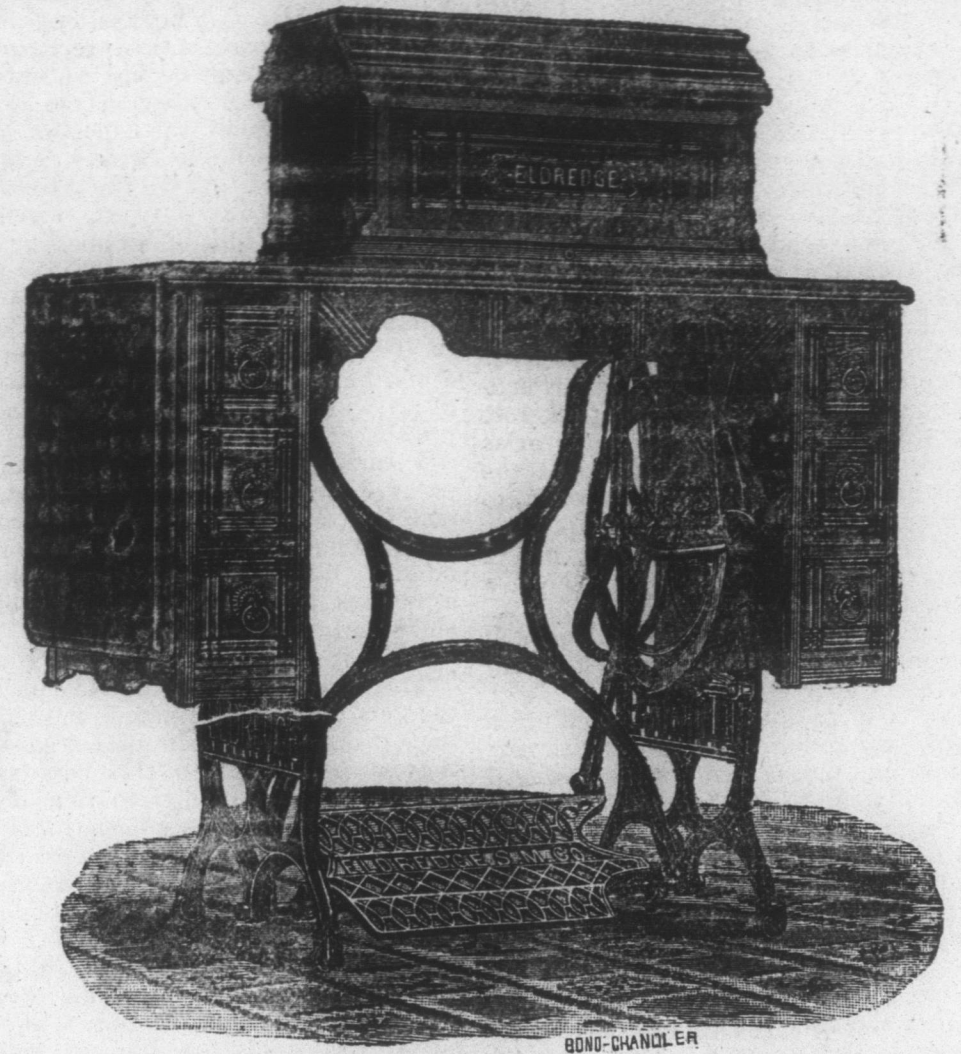
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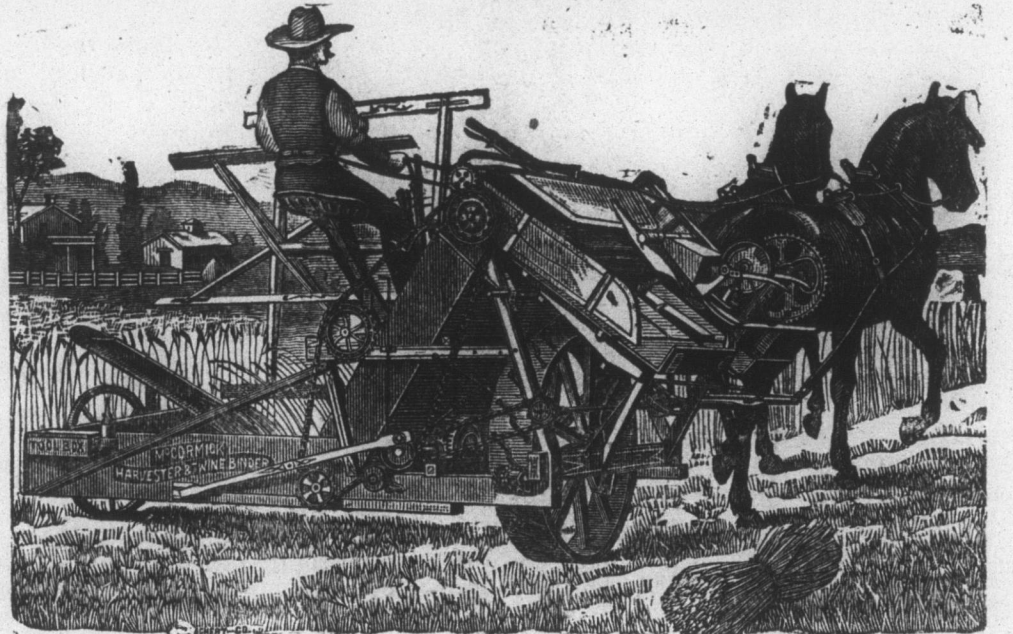
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